

Davis County Health Update

July 9, 2010

Animal Bites and Rabies

The Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) has issued a recommendation to reduce the number of human rabies doses from 5 to 4 in the MMWR, March 19, 2010. This time of year we typically see an increase in animal bite reports. For this reason, we would like to take the opportunity to remind healthcare providers about steps that should be taken when providing care for a patient who has been bitten by an animal.

1. **Verify that the bite had been reported to Davis County Animal Services, 801-444-2200.** Even bites that do not require medical care should be reported to allow authorities to evaluate the need for animal quarantine, testing, and/or PEP.
2. **Use normal wound care procedures to treat the injury.**
3. **Determine if post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended.** Follow the “Guide to Rabies Post-Exposure Evaluation and Management” (see attachment). If you have any questions about the administration of PEP, please call the Davis County Disease Reporting line for healthcare providers, 801-451-3003.
4. **If necessary, administer immune globulin and post-exposure prophylaxis.** If you determine that post-exposure prophylaxis is necessary, follow the ACIP vaccine schedule to prevent human rabies, as outlined in the schedule below.

TABLE 1. Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) schedule --- United States, 2010		
Vaccination status	Intervention	Regimen
Not previously vaccinated	Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG)	Administer 20 IU/kg body weight. If anatomically feasible, the full dose should be infiltrated around and into the wound(s), and any remaining should be administered at an anatomical site (intramuscular [IM]) distant from vaccine administration. Also, HRIG should not be administered in the same syringe as vaccine.
	Vaccine	Human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCECV) 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area†), 1 each on days 0, 3, 7 and 14.¶
Previously vaccinated	HRIG	HRIG should not be administered.
	Vaccine	HDCV or PCECV 1.0 mL, IM (deltoid area†), 1 each on days 0 and 3.
† The deltoid area is the only acceptable site of vaccination for adults and older children. For younger children, the outer aspect of the thigh may be used. Vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal area.		
¶ For persons with immunosuppression, rabies PEP should be administered using all 5 doses of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28.		

More information about the new rabies vaccination recommendations from the ACIP is available in the MMWR, “Use of a Reduced (4-Dose) Vaccine Schedule for Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Human Rabies” March 19, 2010, Vol.59, RR-2, pg. 1–12.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm>.

During 2009, there were no cases of rabies reported in animals in Davis County and no human cases were reported. However, 5 residents received post-exposure prophylaxis due to exposures where the animal could not be tested.

Reporting Rabies Cases

Any case of human or animal rabies is immediately reportable in Utah. Please report these cases (including suspect cases) to the Davis County Health Department, Disease Reporting Line 801-451-3003. Reports can also be faxed to 801-451-3464.